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CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Fuerstenwalde

EVALUATION

ACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

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REFERENCES

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REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 27 November 1953, the Pionier Kaserne in Fuerstenwalde was occupied by about 250 to 300 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets including 75 percent with tank insignia. At 11 a.m., about 40 soldiers left the installation toward town. No regular training activity was observed in the billeting area on 12 December.

2. On 27 November, the barracks installation on Braunsdorfer Strasse was occupied by about 350 to 400 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery and tank insignia. On 12 December, 3 tanks, 1 RA-64 armored scout car and 1 six-wheel armored personnel carrier moved out of the installation.

3. On 27 November, the Fliegerhorst Kaserne quartered about 250 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including 50 percent with artillery insignia and 10 percent with motor transport insignia. No regular training activity was noticed in the billeting area.

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4. At about 6 p.m. on 1 December, a shipment of 8 x 122-mm field guns and about 50 trucks passed through Fuerstenwalde railroad station, proceeding toward Frankfurt/Oder.

5. On 7 December, the Pionier Kaserne quartered 400 to 500 troops. On 4 December, about 35 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets marched into the installation, coming from the direction of the training grounds. On 20 November, 10 armored personnel carriers with numbers from 201 through 210 moved into the installation from the direction of the training grounds.

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6. On 30 November, the barracks installation on Braunsdorfer Strasse was occupied by about 550 troops. Ten soldiers painted the watchtowers and engaged in clearing work on the training grounds adjacent to the installation. About 25 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and black-bordered crimson epaulets marched into the installation, coming from the direction of the troop training grounds.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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1. [ ] Contrary to [ ] the two first mentioned barracks installations to have been occupied by 1,000 and 1,200 troops respectively on 22 November. [ ] Since it is believed that the posts of Frankfurt/Oder and Beeskow were also occupied to capacity by units of the 7th Gds Mecz Div at that time and only guard details were stationed in Camp Jamnitz at Lieberose troop training grounds, the present strength estimates are believed incorrect. Difficulties regarding the possibility of observation and little training activity which is usually conducted at a low level during that time of the year probably led to erroneous strength estimates. It is therefore believed that, except for the mechanized regiment which is employed in Berlin, all elements of the division were in their billeting area at the end of November. The same conclusions apply to the medium and light AAA units of the 63d AAA Div [ ] in the Fliegerhorst Kaserne. [ ] the 10 armored personnel carriers which moved into the Pioneer Kaserne on 30 November belonged to the 5th Gds Mtrcl Bn of the division, which is thus confirmed in Fuerstenwalde up to 30 November 1953.

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The following officers are reported for the first time: Gds Lieutenant Colonel Vasilkov (fnu), Zakharchenko (fnu), Gritsai (fnu), Gds Colonel Kozakov (fnu), Gds Lieutenant Colonel Ostrovski (fnu) and Gds Senior Lieutenant Dolgynov (fnu).  
[redacted] Gds Major General Y G Koberidze can be confirmed as  
division commander of the 7th Gds Meza Div until late October 1953.

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